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Palestinian Affairs

'Abd-al-Shafi on Coordination for Christopher Visit

TA2207135693 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 22 Jul 93 pp 1, 7

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has invited the delegation's members to hold a meeting tomorrow at Orient House [the delegation's headquarters] in East Jerusalem.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that "this meeting will focus on the political situation and developments. Moreover, the participants will discuss the Arab paper that the Arab parties to the peace talks will present to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher."

Regarding the paper, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he has no knowledge "so far of the nature of its elements and that the Palestinian delegation will meet to become familiar with its contents."

In this context, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi demanded that Arab coordination take into account "the unique Palestinian situation," adding "I am certain that my Arab brothers will exercise their real responsibility toward the Palestinian stance."

In a related development, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed the issue of concentrating on a comprehensive national dialogue at this stage and warned against "conducting this dialogue in a factional way." He emphasized that the dialogue will not succeed "if everyone does not abandon factional considerations for the sake of achieving a broad national reconciliation."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi denied recent reports about his intention to resign as head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, and said: "I am continuing to shoulder my responsibility."

Possibility of Abu-Mazin-Christopher Meeting Seen

PM2307105693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 93 p 3

[Report by Yusuf Shakir: "Al-Surani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Inclination To Arrange Meeting Between Christopher and Abu-Mazin; Recognition of PLO Condition for Raising Level of Representation in Negotiations"]

[Text] Cairo—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani has said: The Palestinian side supports raising the level of political representation in the negotiations, provided the United States recognizes the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and Faruq Qaddumi as the foreign minister of Palestine and provided the idea of raising the level of representation is not a maneuver to exclude the Palestinian side. He pointed out that Jordan and all the Arab parties will not agree to be an alternative to the PLO to discuss an issue which concerns the Palestinians alone.

Al-Surani added: Raising the level of representation in the light of recognition of the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative would be a sound step on the right road. He said that the resumption of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is a basic necessity if the United States wants to achieve a solution to the Palestinian issue and guarantee tranquillity in the region. He pointed out that Washington's nonrecognition of the PLO as the legitimate leadership of the Palestinian people would move the negotiations from bad to worse, and in such a case holding more or less rounds [of negotiations] would be futile.

Al-Surani revealed the possibility of arranging a meeting in Cairo between [PLO] Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, "Abu-Mazin," and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the latter's upcoming tour of the Middle East region. He expressed his hope that Christopher's visit to the region would not be like his predecessors' visits. He said: Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's nine tours of the region achieved nothing. On every visit he struck off the points he had proposed in the previous visit. He proposed a 10-point paper then a five-point paper but both failed. Al-Surani went on to say that the paper which Washington proposed in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations canceled all the guarantees included in the letter of invitation to the Madrid negotiations, and that the paper proposed in the 10th round was worse than the one proposed in the ninth. The Executive Committee member pointed out that, if the United States is serious about achieving stability in the region, it must restore to the Palestinians their humanity and realize that resolving the Palestinian issue is the cornerstone for the region's stability and that, if they do not have sovereignty over their territory, the region will witness no stability.

Al-Surani urged the U.S. Administration to heed international legitimacy, comply with the resolutions adopted in this connection, acknowledge Israel's aggression on Palestinian territories, consider Jerusalem an occupied territory to which the clauses of the Geneva convention apply, and deal with the issue in accordance with these principles. He pointed out that there will be no peace while Israel possesses nuclear weapons.

Al-Surani warned that U.S. support of Israel and Washington's laxity toward Zionist practices against citizens in the occupied territories further inflame fundamentalist movements in the region to confront the Zionist fanaticism emphasized by former Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon when he said the the Zionist movement had come to establish a Jewish, not a democratic, state.

Sources: Christopher To Raise Confederation Issue

TA2107154393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 21 Jul 93 pp 1, 15

["Exclusive to AL-QUDS"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, Damascus—It has been learned from prominent political sources in Cairo that an important Arab report is being prepared currently by the Arab cordon states to be presented to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his upcoming and important tour of the Middle East during the first week of August.

The sources said that the report will reflect the result of Arab contacts and meetings that will be held in the remaining two weeks before Christopher's tour. The report will include comprehensive Arab proposals that the Arab parties deem necessary for achieving a political breakthrough on all the negotiating tracks as well as the Arab viewpoint about the expected changes in the Madrid Conference general framework, which Christopher is to spell out during his upcoming tour.

The sources also said that in recent contacts, Christopher relayed to the Arab parties a U.S. emphasis on the need to reach a draft Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli declaration of principles and the need to include Jordan in the draft declaration of principles as a third party alongside the Palestinians. Christopher outlined the proposed formula for a Palestinian- Jordanian confederation that is being studied by the U.S. Administration as an alternative to interim self-rule.

The sources added that Christopher will bring important messages to the leaders of the countries that he will visit—Egypt, Israel, Syria, and Jordan—from U.S. President Bill Clinton, who decided to task his secretary of state with making this visit.

The Arab parties concerned in the negotiations with Israel have received messages from the U.S. Administration about the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the Middle East region.

The sources said that reports by Arab embassies in Washington stressed that the decision to send Christopher to the region was made in light of the positive indications that emerged during U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross' tour of the region, particularly with regard to the readiness of all the parties to continue the negotiating process. The reports said that the U.S. Administration has set 10 August as the tentative date for the resumption of the upcoming round of talks. All the parties are to receive the invitations to attend that round during Christopher's visit to the Middle East.

Furthermore, recent reports received by Cairo indicate that the Clinton administration will summon Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to Washington within days for urgent discussions.

Political sources in Cairo said that the new U.S.-Israeli talks fall within framework of Washington's efforts to bridge the gap over the interim stage in preparation to holding the upcoming round of bilateral talks in Washington at the beginning of next month. [passage omitted]

Qaddumi Comments on Meeting With France's Juppe

JN2207183993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] At the conclusion of a 75-minute meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Paris today, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said their talks centered on a political settlement and the U.S. paper, which the Palestinians clearly rejected because it changed the Bush initiative.

Asked about France's stand on the negotiations, Qaddumi said it was a positive stand and that France was eager to overcome the difficulties that are hindering the negotiations and to exert all possible efforts to remove these obstacles. We thanked them on this positive stand, he said.

Our correspondent Faridah al-Shubashi directed several questions at the Palestinian official.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shubashi] In your talks in Damascus, did you discuss anything apart from the U.S. paper? Did you discuss the Palestinian national dialogue and coordination?

[Qaddumi] Our relations with our brothers in Damascus is being strengthened daily, especially concerning the settlement. Our stands are united. A Fatah delegation has been there to open a comprehensive dialogue with our brothers in other Palestinian organization and the dialogue was successful.

[Al-Shubashi] Concerning Jerusalem, is there any Arab support for the Palestinian position that Jerusalem should not be dropped in the first phase of the negotiation?

[Qaddumi] There is an Arab stand and an Islamic stand. I was in Islamabad a few days ago, and this stand was reiterated—Jerusalem first and last.

[Al-Shubashi] Have you learned anything about the nature of the amendments that Washington might introduce to the first document, which the Palestinians have rejected?

[Qaddumi] We have said there is no need for the United States to present a paper. There is only one paper, which is the Bush initiative. Why present a first and second paper? Therefore, we cannot deal with this paper, and I hope the United States hears what we said.

[Al-Shubashi] [word indistinct] The Israelis say that there is no option left for the Palestinians except what

Israel and the Americans are presenting. What is your response to this? Is there another option?

[Qaddumi] The movement of history ended the USSR. Likewise, this Israeli arrogance will end. [end recording]

Qaddumi also asserted that France has approved the new Palestinian commissioner to France and that he will be named within days.

On Rabin's accusations that 'Arafat is responsible for the deadlock in the negotiations, Qaddumi said that 'Arafat is the president of the State of Palestine and his utterances represent the unified stand of the Palestinian leadership.

On the reports about the visit to Tunis by the Israeli Arab Knesset member 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Darawishah, who was accompanied by an Israeli Knesset member from the Labor Party, to meet 'Arafat, Qaddumi said he knew nothing of this. He added: But our Palestinian brothers are part of us, our fellow Palestinians. They are welcome everywhere.

On the secret contacts between the PLO and the Israeli Government, Qaddumi said: Do we need secret contacts when we are negotiating with the Israelis. There is no need for this secrecy, which I completely deny.

'Secret Contacts' Between Israel, PLO Detailed

PM2207155793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 93 p 3

['Ali al-Salih report: "Despite Continuing Denial, Secret Contacts Between PLO and Israel To Get Out of a Crisis Serving Oppositionists"]

[Text] London—Informed Palestinian sources have revealed that two meetings were held two weeks ago between PLO and Israeli officials.

According to the sources, who asked to remain anonymous, the first meeting was held in the Egyptian capital between Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, and Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

The second meeting was held in the U.S. capital. It was attended from the Palestinian side by Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala'), member of the Fatah Central Committee and head of the follow-up committee for the Palestinian delegation to the multilateral negotiations, and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee and PLO ambassador in Tunis. It was attended from the Israeli side by Yosi Alber, head of the Strategic Studies Center in Tel Aviv, and General Shlomo Gazit, former chief of Israeli military intelligence.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that at the second meeting—which was the more important—the Israelis stressed the need to take measures to extricate the peace negotiations from their crisis, which serves no one except oppositionists on both sides. The Israeli side submitted two proposals. The first represents Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's view and gives the PLO a bigger role through side contacts with figures belonging to the PLO's moderate wing like Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), member of the PLO Executive Committee and the Fatah Central Committee.

The second proposal represents Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' view, which consists in making contacts with all PLO leaders, including 'Arafat himself, side by side with the negotiation process. Peres couples his proposal with three conditions: first, dropping the Jerusalem issue from the negotiating framework; second, referring the refugee issue to the multilateral negotiations; third, halting violent actions in the occupied territories.

Peres' proposal also includes immediately beginning the implementation of autonomy in the Gaza Strip experimentally to determine whether the Palestinian are capable of running their affairs by themselves, with this applied in the West Bank later. And envisages the final phase of the negotiations resulting in the formation of a Palestinian entity bigger than an autonomy and less than an independent state—that is, either a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation or an Israeli-Palestinian confederation—which, according to the proposal, requires Jordan's signing of a peace agreement.

Some members of the Palestinian delegation said that these ideas are formal, do not represent a fundamental change in the Madrid formula for the negotiations, and in the end perpetuate the old Madrid formula whose change the Palestinians have been demanding despite Peres' attempt to appear more pragmatic than Rabin.

Notables Issue Statements in Support of 'Arafat

TA2207165693

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic on 22 July carries on pages 1 and 11 an approximately 1,000-word article comprising statements by several Palestinian personalities in the territories supporting the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat. The statements are attributed to al-Hajj Hasan Tahbub, head of the Supreme Islamic Council in Jerusalem; attorney Fayiz Abu-Rahmah from Gaza; al-Hajj Mu'adh al-Nabulsi, head of the Nabulus Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. 'Abdallah Sabri from Jerusalem; Shahir Sa'd, secretary general of West Bank Federation of Trade Unions; and Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus.

The statements are preceded by the following introduction:

"A number of Palestinian figures in the occupied Arab territories have stressed the need to maintain national unity as it is the shield that protects the cause of our Palestinian people under the difficult circumstances through which they are passing, and especially in confronting the numerous conspiracies that are being hatched against our national cause.

"Those personalities emphasized to AL-FAJR the need to rally around the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, and adhering to the leadership of the president and symbol, Yasir 'Arafat, who has been, is, and will continue to wage the battles of our people to achieve the great goal of establishing our independent Palestinian state over the pure soil of our land and its holy capital, Jerusalem.

"Palestinian personalities have expressed their confidence that the Fatah Revolutionary Council meetings will result in serious action to draw up plans for comprehensive national unity with all the Palestinian factions operating in the Palestinian arena. They also called for retaining the PLO, with all its factions, under the leadership of the president and symbol Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]."

Official Cited on Fatah Council's Final Statement

JN2207123393 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jul 93 pp 1, 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—A senior Palestinian official has disclosed the most important points of the final statement that will be issued at the end of the Fatah Revolutionary Council's meetings. The statement will be announced in the Tunisian capital within the next few hours.

The Palestinian official told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the final statement will basically focus on the resumption of the comprehensive national dialogue and on the stand toward U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission in the region next month.

Answering a question on the position on the peace process, he stressed that the statement will not include any reference to halting participation in the peace talks.

The Palestinian official said that the tense atmosphere between President 'Arafat and the dialogue committee, led by Fatah second in command Hani al-Hasan, which prevailed in the day before yesterday's meetings, is now over after the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, announced its stand toward the delegation of the dialogue committee.

The official added that the DFLP message, which was conveyed by its representative in the PLO Executive Committee, Taysir Khalid, was read during the meeting and all sides were greatly satisfied with it.

The Palestinian official pointed out that this message has enabled the party which seeks to resume the national dialogue to develop its position in order to get out of the dark tunnel the [national dialogue] talks have reached.

Answering another question, he said: Although tense, yesterday's discussions were very objective. He noted that the Fatah Revolutionary Council has discovered that some of the participants in the steering committee do not abide by their leaderships' instructions and act in their own way.

The Palestinian official said: During discussion of the results of the tour of Dennis Ross, special coordinator of the peace talks, and the proposals he carried with him through Cairo to discuss with the Palestinian negotiating delegation, it became clear that the proposals that were conveyed to the Egyptians, who, in turn, conveyed them to Dennis Ross, were not in harmony with the proposals sent by the Palestinian leadership and signed by a number of this committee's members

The Palestinian official added that the Revolutionary Council emphasized that the proposals regarding territorial jurisdiction were ambiguous. This, he said, has urged a number of the delegation members who met with Ross to stress to him that this is not the Palestinian position and that the leadership's decision is to reject the U.S. document.

The Palestinian official said that a responsible and prolonged discussion was also conducted on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region. He said that the Council affirmed that the Palestinian rejection of the U.S. document and any other new ideas that do not meet the Palestinian demands should be made clear.

He stressed that the Revolutionary Council reiterated its adherence to Resolution 242 and the issue of Jerusalem, and called for observing the boundaries of territorial jurisdiction over all territories which were not under Israeli control before 4 June 1967.

Sources Deny PLO Transferring Offices to Baghdad

JN2107154593 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have dismissed as groundless recent reports about transferring PLO offices from Tunis to Baghdad, asserting the move was uncalled for.

The sources told AL-MUSTAQBAL such rumors are part of a feverish campaign to besmirch the PLO and to create the impression that it is experiencing political isolation. A Palestinian official stressed "there is no plan for isolation in Baghdad".

Recent press reports said the Palestinian leadership decided to transfer information, financial, and administrative offices from Tunis to Baghdad to cut spending, following pressure on the PLO from the United States and some Arab countries and the expiration of a contract between the PLO and Tunisia.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Urges Israel To End Attacks in Lebanon

NC2207191093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1753 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has called on the Israeli Government to halt the actions that only increase tension in the region and threaten the peace process. This was stated today by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry in a comment on the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon. He said that the Foreign Ministry was extremely upset over reports on the Israeli offensive and immediately contacted the Israeli Government to stop these actions. He noted that these are acts of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our fraternal Arab country. He noted that the Foreign Ministry called for avoiding any action that might increase tension and adversely affect the current peace process.

Libyan Official Meets With Musa, Comments on Ties

NC2207170293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today met with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee for National Unity [title as received]. After the meeting, al-Fazzani said that he and Musa discussed Egyptian-Libyan ties and ways to promote them in various fields. He said that the Higher Egyptian-Libyan Committee will meet in Cairo in August, noting that arrangements to convene the meeting under the prime ministers of the two countries were discussed.

Al-Fazzani stressed the importance of Egypt's role in achieving Arab reconciliation and bolstering joint Arab action, noting the importance of a joint Egyptian-Libyan role in enhancing the effectiveness of the Arab League's role. He denied that there were any problems between Egypt and Libya that led to the postponement of the meeting of the Joint Egyptian-Libyan Committee from April to August, stressing the meeting was postponed for purely technical reasons. He said that Libya still pays great attention to the project of settling Egyptian citizens in the new urban areas in Libya and that the project has not been canceled.

Sudan Releases Egyptian Detainees

NC2307092093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0831 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities have released four Egyptian detainees held since 24 June. The four are: The acting manager of the Egyptian Manufacturing Outlet Company, the director of the Egyptian Commercial Center, an engineer from the Egypt Fortified Cement Works Company, and an employee of the al-Nasr Import and Export Company.

This means 11 of 20 Egyptians detained recently by the Sudanese authorities have been released. The four will return to Cairo on Monday, 26 July.

Morocco

French Prime Minister To Discuss Bilateral, EC Ties

Met by Lamrani

LD2207222693 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpts] French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur arrived in Morocco this evening on an official visit. The French prime minister was met at Rabat-Sale airport by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the press, Mr. Balladur said that he was happy to be in Morocco and that this visit will contribute to strengthening Moroccan-French cooperation. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Emphasized

LD2307005293 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani hosted an official dinner this evening in Rabat in honor of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. Mohamed Karim Lamrani first gave a speech in which he said that he was very happy to receive his majesty's guest Edouard Balladur, who had a longstanding friendship with Morocco. He indicated that this official visit, the first foreign visit Balladur has made since being appointed French prime minister, reflected the special nature of relations between Morocco and France.

After highlighting Edouard Balladur's endeavors as head of government, Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani touched on relations between the two friendly countries, stressing that Morocco, under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II, was relentlessly embracing democracy. [passage omitted]

The prime minister emphasized that relations between the two countries had deepened over the years thanks to a number of agreements and treaties in various fields, and also to the presence of Moroccans on French soil and Frenchmen on Moroccan soil, which made it possible for excellent strong human relationships to be forged.

Mohamed Karim Lamrani said that there was a common desire to develop relations in all fields and a need to work to respond to the development of French and Moroccan societies and economies in response to the desire of the two countries' leaders, His Majesty King Hassan II [as heard]. The prime minister said that this

desire would be completed within the political framework of partnership between Morocco and the European Community, emphasizing that Morocco was determined to sign an agreement with the EC. [passage omitted]

Then French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur spoke. [passage omitted] He touched on Morocco's relations with the EC being based on new foundations, emphasizing that France was ready to support the agreement with the EC. The French official said that his talks with Moroccan officials would deal with topical issues, especially the Middle East question, the situation in former Yugoslavia, and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Delegation Meets With Hassan Adviser

LD2207144493 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Rabat, July 22-(MAP)—A visiting Kuwaiti MP delegation hailed the position of Morocco concerning the crisis of the Kuwaiti people during the Gulf War as well as Morocco's role in releasing Kuwaiti POWs in Iraq.

During a press conference Wednesday [21 July], rapporteur of the committee in charge of Kuwaiti POWs and missing at the Kuwaiti parliament 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jamal said termed as positive and fruitful the talks the delegation held with advisor to King Hassan II Abdelhadi Boutaleb and leaders of some political parties.

Recalling the mission of the sovereign's envoy to Kuwait and Iraq Abdelhadi Boutaleb, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Jamal voiced hope that the Moroccan initiative and that of the Arab League would be successful.

On inter-Arab reconciliation, the Kuwaiti official stressed his country's belief that the Arab world needs relations based on sincerity, adding that the Gulf War created a gap between Arab countries which make hard to restore entente.

Kuwait cannot consolidate relations with Arab countries which backed Iraq during the war, unless these countries condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and recognize the sovereignty of Kuwait over all its territory.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid Begins Visit

LD2207221893 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], arrived in our country this evening. He was met at Rabat-Sale airport by His Royal Higness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Comments on Relations With Egypt

EA2207124293 Khartoum SUNA in French 1645 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 21 Jul (SUNA)—General 'Umar al-Bashir, the Revolution Command Council chairman, says Sudan deplores the assassination of tourists. In an interview with the daily AL-KHALIJ, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said that in view of developments in Sudanese-Egyptian relations, he and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak have agreed to resolve the disagreements between the two countries through dialogue and discussion.

All the issues between the two countries should be presented to their foreign ministers instead of being reported in the news media, Gen. al-Bashir added, in reference to the efforts that have been made by a number of Arab presidents to restore the shaky relations between Sudan and Egypt. [passage omitted]

The head of the revolution said that integration between Sudan and Libya without Egypt would not be enough and that this is why Egypt must contribute to the efforts for the realization of the unity of the three countries.

Minister Reviews Goals of New Peace Ministry

EA2207121393 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Jul (SUNA)—Peace and Reconstruction Minister 'Abdallah Deng Niyal has stressed that the newly formed ministry will perform a significant role in matters affecting peace and development under urgent short- and long-term programs. He said the establishment of the ministry confirmed the revolution's concern for the issue of peace, which it regarded as the first of its priorities.

His excellency said in a statement to today's issue of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI that the ministry, as part of its urgent programs, would begin providing essential services, food, and clothing to returnee rebels in the three southern states through the Peace Foundation. Niyal said efforts were under way to dispatch as a matter of urgency a steamship to meet the pressing needs of 100,000 returnees who had gathered around Malakal in Upper Nile State. The minister stressed the need for coordination and cooperation with relevant organizations, as well as cooperation with national voluntary organizations, and coordination to concentrate on the necessary support for projects. He said there were coordinators supervising work in the three states.

Mr. 'Abdallah Deng Niyal said the medium and long-term plans included major projects that would require support. His ministry, he said, was represented in the Peace Foundation and had presented these projects to the UN organizations with a view to obtaining their support. He said a comprehensive field tour would be

embarked on within the next few days to embrace all areas adversely affected by war in order to obtain an on-the-spot view of the actual needs.

The minister went on to say that his ministry planned to mobilize the public in matters of peace and development and the unification of the home front. He said citizens would be briefed on the peace issue in Sudan, as well as on the exposure of fabricated allegations, to convince them that the issue was political rather than one of religious fanaticism, as had been bandied about.

He said the meetings the ministry would hold with the citizens, visitors, and foreigners would convince them of the government's readiness for dialogue anywhere and at any time for the achievement of peace. He said the ministry would also strive to entrench religious coexistence, stressing that efforts would be concentrated on the normalization of life in the south.

The peace minister hailed the interfaith dialogue conference, which threw light on the fact that Sudan was an open country, living in peace and religious tolerance. He stressed that Sudan had adhered to the guidelines of the charter on missionary activities and all its recommendations. He said that activity would be stepped up during the next few days, with the holding of seminars, lectures, and meetings to discuss various issues affecting the country in line with the ministry's plans and programs.

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction is one of the newest ministries established by the National Salvation Revolution. There was a Ministry of Peace during the period of the uprising, but it was subsequently dissolved.

Kuwait

* Deputies Report on Omani-Iraqi Relations

93P50241A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 93 p 1

[Report by Hamad al-Jasir in Kuwait and Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat]

[Text] Kuwaiti deputies have said that the Qatari foreign minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabir Al Thani, told them during his recent visit to Kuwait that his government rejected Iraqi attempts to develop relations between the two countries.

Several deputies disclosed in their diwaniyahs Tuesday [13 July] evening that the Qatari foreign minister told them during his meeting with a number of members of the foreign affairs committee in the National Assemby that the Iraqi ambassador in Doha had made efforts and initiatives toward a complete reconciliation with the Qatari side. The minister affirmed to the deputies that he "rejected these attempts and confirmed that the Qatari position demands that Iraq must comply with the UN resolutions connected with the war to liberate Kuwait, resolutions that Qatar respects and is determined will be implemented by the Iraqi side."

In Muscat, Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id sent a message of congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday on the occasion of his country's national day, which was considered in Muscat to be a continuation of the Omani policy of rapprochement with Iraq.

The official OMANI NEWS AGENCY printed Sultan Qabus' congratulations to Saddam on the occasion.

Observers noted that sending this cable at a time when the confrontation between Iraq and the United States has entered a new stage of escalation... may not be devoid of political meaning, especially as Oman had previously tacitly criticized the attacks on Iraq in January. The cable considered that the use of force has not and will not ensure stability in the region and that it puts the welfare of the citizens at the mercy of this force. In addition, Sultan Qabus has not ceased exchanging greetings with Saddam on Islamic holidays since the Gulf crisis and the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi, used expressions of understanding for the suffering of the Iraqi people and its humanitarian and economic conditions in a press conference that he held in Sanaa Thursday.

Also, Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hammud al-Sabah turned over three people to the office of the prosecutor general for exceeding the authiority of a security officer and impeding security measures concerning the release from prison of a person detained for trial.

The National Assembly discussed this incident, which implicated officials in the Interior Ministry, two weeks ago. An Assembly source told AL-HAYAH that one Interior Ministry official, the head of a sensitive directorate, insulted the duty officer at a police station and that this official and a member of the ruling family tore up the investigation report in a case concerning one of the latter's relatives who was detained at the station for drunk driving. The deputies demanded an official accounting from the interior minister on this conduct.

Deputy 'Abbas Munawir, who is chairman of the internal affairs committee in the Assembly, announced that the minister yesterday issued an order to turn over the persons involved in the incident to the prosecutor general for trial. The minister affirmed to the deputies that charges were lodged against the three, who were among those who entered a police station and insulted an officer and detective at the station while they were carrying out their official duties, caused an arrested person wanted by the security agencies to escape, and destroyed public property by tearing up the report record at the station. The minister's decision represents a precedent in the field of limiting the arrogance toward the law of the powerful in Kuwait. It is expected that his prudent position will lead to an improvement in the relations between him and the National Assembly, which has criticized the security agencies sharply in the last few months.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bosnia-Herzegovina

JN2207153493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Doha, 22 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Oil Minister, OPEC Chairman Discuss Oil Prices

LD2207171993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1605 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Jul 1993, SPA—His excellency Petroleum and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir today held a meeting in Jeddah with his excellency Jean Ping, the current chairman of OPEC and oil minister of Gabon. They reviewed oil market developments and means to restore the stability of oil prices. [passage omitted]

Chairman Supports Quota Statement

LD2207185693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency Jean Ping, the current OPEC chairman and Gabon's oil minister, said that he agrees with the communique issued by Saudi

Petroleum Minister Hisham Nazir on the need for OPEC member states to tighten adherence to their fixed quotas. In a statement to REUTER today, he said: I think that what Hisham Nazir had said was a natural thing and that we should find ways to convey to OPEC member states that they must adhere to their agreements.

Minister Denies Overproduction Accusation

LD2307001993 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2250 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Jeddah 22 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, in a statement today to SPA, said: The Iranian petroleum minister's reference to the production of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in his remarks yesterday and the report published by TEHRAN TIMES today on what it termed "surplus Saudi production" are nothing but a coverup for Iran's continued violation of its quota allocated by OPEC.

Minister Nazir went on to say that "the committee monitoring the agreement alluded to Iranian violations at the Muscat meeting and had referred to them once again at the Geneva meeting. Other members had drawn the Iranian minister's attention to those violations." He added, "All petroleum publications were unanimous in reporting that Iranian production last June had exceeded its quota by more than 277,000 barrels per day and that by this continued violation of its quota Iran alone bears the responsibility for the collapse of prices in the market. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Those same publications were unanimous that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had abided by the agreement.

He added, "These methods can deceive nobody, and the commitment of the Kingdom does not need any new evidence."

Yemen

Al-Bushayri Resignation as Chief of Staff Confirmed

PM2207150293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jul 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Chief of Staff's Resignation Provokes Army Unification Problem in Yemen"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Official Yemeni sources have confirmed the report on the resignation of Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bushayri, chief of staff of the Yemeni Armed Forces, in protest of the policy of Defense Minister Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir and as a result of disagreements that emerged between the two men some time ago. But the sources pointed out that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has not decided on the resignation yet.

Partisan sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a week ago that an unsigned written copy of the resignation had been leaked and changed hands in Sanaa, while Brig. Gen. al-Bushayri secluded himself in his house, avoiding carrying out the duties of his post for several weeks.

The sources said that the reason for the resignation—according to Brig. Gen. al-Bushayri—is "the abandonment of the real intention to unify the Yemeni Armed Forces and eliminate all kinds of negligence within their ranks and the methods pursued in making decisions concerning officers' promotions." The sources added that al-Bushayri is opposed to the promotion of some 3,500 officers, saying it is "not normal," and condemning the "transfer of ownership of some lands owned by the Armed Forces to some persons."

It is worth noting that Brig. Gen. al-Bushayri comes from north Yemen, while Defense Minister Brig. Gen. Haytham Qasim Tahir comes from al-Dali', in the southern governorate of Lahij. Al-Bushayri's criticisms of Tahir include the claim that he rented a villa adjacent to his house in Sanaa to accommodate a complete military battalion whose task is to guard the defense minister's house, in addition to his distribution of large quantities of arms to Yemeni tribes. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Willing To Allow 'Long-Term' Monitoring

NC2207185993 Paris AFP in English 1842 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 22 (AFP)—Iraq announced late Thursday [22 July] it was prepared to allow long-term monitoring of its weapons facilities, provided its sovereignty was respected.

The acceptance came in a letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to U.N. Security Council President David Hannay published here.

The letter marked Iraq's first public acknowledgement that it is willing to accept monitoring, thereby confirming an announcement Monday by U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus that Iraq had agreed in principle to apply U.N. Resolution 715 ordering the monitoring.

The letter stressed the U.N. Security Council and special disarmament commission would need to "respect the sovereignty, internal security and dignity of the people and the state of Iraq" in implementing the resolution.

Position Paper Outlines Understanding With UN

JN2207192593 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1805 GMT 22 Jul 93

["Text" of "official letter" from Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to UN Security Council President David Hannay on 20 July—read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Sir David Hannay, UN Security Council President, New York:

Your Excellency: We received Rolf Ekeus, the chairman of the Special Commission, on Thursday, 15 July 1993. We held talks with him that lasted several days. Taking part in those talks on the Iraqi side were the deputy prime minister, the foreign minister, and a number of senior officials. For our part, we welcomed this visit as a UN Security Council initiative to hold a dialogue with Iraq on disputed issues. Our welcome reaffirms Iraq's serious desire to resolve all pending issues through a serious, responsible dialogue built on just, fair, and logical bases that are in line with international law and the UN Charter.

Having exchanged views in a fair and objective manner during the first three rounds of talks, we wished to present to Rolf Ekeus and through him to the UN Security Council a position paper. This paper clearly reflects Iraq's view of the relationship between Iraq's responsibilities toward the UN Security Council and the resolutions that it has issued, and the responsibilities of the UN Security Council as an institution and the Security Council member states toward Iraq as a free, independent country and a founding member of the United Nations. It also concerns their responsibilities toward Iraq's legitimate, inalienable right to sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and security, and toward its rights to a free, honorable life as an ancient country with a prominent role in human civilization. Of course, in his capacity as the chairman of the Special Commission, Rolf Ekeus could not speak on behalf of the Security Council on topics that are outside the jurisdiction of the commission. However, we took the opportunity to review our position before the Council. Here we present before the Council the full text of this paper:

A position paper presented by Iraq to Rolf Ekeus on 18 July 1993:

Iraq understands that implementing its obligations under Part C of Resolution 687—and this has been accomplished—obliges the Council to implement Paragraph 22 of the same resolution. However, this has not happened. Thus, out of its desire for further cooperation with the Council and the special commission to reach a resolution to pending issues and to lift the blockade imposed on its people, Iraq proposes the following suggestions:

1. Iraq is prepared to comply with the provisions of the future surveillance and verification plan in accordance with Resolution 715 of 1991.

2. In implementing the said plan, the Security Council and Special Commission pledge to respect Iraq's sovereignty, internal security, and the dignity of the people and the state.

3. The Security Council and the Special Commission pledge to implement the said plans while guaranteeing Iraq's right to industrial, scientific, and technological progress, and development in all areas not banned by Resolution 687.

4. In implementing the surveillance and verification through aerial means, the Special Commission uses—whenever necessary—Iraqi resources such as helicopters and surveillance planes instead of non-Iraqi resources. It is possible to use other resources agreed upon by the two sides.

5. The Special Commission should be committed to implementing the tasks of surveillance and verification in the nuclear, chemical, and biological fields in accordance with the bases and means provided for in valid international charters.

6. The Security Council and the Special Commission pledge to implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 immediately and fully and without additional conditions.

7. The Security Council pledges to lift the embargo provided for in Paragraph 24 of Resolution 687.

8. The Security Council and the Special Commission pledge to seriously and immediately work for implementing Paragraph 14 of Resolution 687—in which the

Council noted that the measures Iraq will take in accordance with the paragraphs related to weapons of mass destruction are considered steps toward the creation of a region in the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction and of their launchers and toward imposing a world embargo on chemical weapons—and that the measures of embargo, surveillance, and verification imposed on Iraq, including those in the field of ballistic missiles, be part of plans to be applied on other countries in the region without exception. It is natural to reiterate Iraq's right to benefit from any advantage resulting from implementing these measures on countries in the region.

9. Taking into consideration the Council's reiteration in the preamble of Resolution 687 that all member states are committed to respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence—thereby forming a general and categorical commitment by all states, including the Security Council member states—Iraq asks the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France—in accordance with their obligations stipulated by the Charter, in their capacity as permanent members of the Security Council, and in light of their commitments stipulated by the Security Council resolutions issued in accordance with Chapter 7, including Resolution 687—to fully respect Iraq's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, to immediately end the no-fly zones imposed south of the 32d parallel and north of 36th parallel, to stop violating Iraq's airspace, and to stop interference in its internal affairs.

Mr. President: A fair and balanced reading of Iraq's position paper will show it to be truly interested in resolving outstanding issues and reassuring the Security Council regarding future surveillance, now that all the substantive aspects of Part C of Resolution 687 have been completed. The paper also makes clear that the other provisions of the resolution have been implemented.

It is natural that Iraq should expect the Security Council to take a fair stand on its obligations as spelled out in the Charter and its own resolutions, which call for honoring Iraq's sovereignty, independence, and internal security and territorial integrity. It is equally natural that Iraq should expect the unfair embargo that was slapped on it three years ago, causing the the civilized Iraqi people extreme suffering, should be lifted. Iraq also expects the lifting of the tight controls that have ceased to have any justification.

We hope that the paper presented by Iraq and the negative and positive results of Mr. Rolf Ekeus' 15-19 July visit to Baghdad will mark a turning point in the UN Security Council's stand on substantive issues and Iraq's legitimate demands.

Iraq hopes the Council will study the implementation of Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 without delay as a first step toward addressing its legitimate demands. Such a step would be warmly welcomed by the Iraqi people and would spur more constructive relations between Iraq and the council.

Iraq urges the council to work in that direction and not to ignore the substantive and legitimate considerations that Iraq incorporated in this paper, which is based on justice and fairness and calls for the implementation of the Council's moral and legal obligations toward an independent member of the United Nations.

Any unwanted consequences of the Council disregarding Iraq's substantive and legitimate demands will be borne by those who are pushing in this direction.

Iraq, which pressed for dialogue with the Security Council in a letter from the foreign minister on 30 May, 1993 and evinced a responsible and positive attitude during the head of the UN Special Commission's visit to Baghdad, renews the demand for dialogue with the Council or its permanent members, in addition to the high-level technical dialogue with the Special Commission that will address all outstanding issues and seek to remove all suspicion and obstacles to the building of relations based on mutual understanding and cooperation between Iraq and the Council.

Iraq further wishes to pursue its constructive contacts with the UN secretary general to promote that goal.

Please accept our best regards. [Signed] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad [Dated] 1 Safar, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 20 July, 1993.

UN's Hannay Receives Iraqi Paper

JN2207171693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, 22 Jul (INA)—British Ambassador David Hannay, president of the UN Security Council [UNSC] for this month, received an official message from Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, yesterday, Wednesday.

The foreign minister's message contains the points included in the "position paper" that Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, received during his talks with the Iraqi side led by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The nine points included in the "position paper" reaffirm the need for the Security Council and the Special Commission to fulfill their commitments in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687, which calls for lifting the blockade on Iraq after Part C of that resolution is implemented. And this, the message adds, was accomplished.

The paper calls for respecting Iraq's sovereignty and national security, as well as the Iraqis' dignity and right to scientific, industrial, technological progress, and development in all areas not banned by Resolution 687.

Commentary Reacts to UN Decision To Extend Embargo

JN2207175993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Commentary from the "Spotlight on the News" program]

[Text] The renewal of the unjust blockade on the people of Iraq shows once again that the decision to impose the blockade is an American desire and has nothing to do with the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] resolutions or the ongoing talks between the Security Council and Iraq regarding these resolutions. The extension of the blockade—despite the request by a number of nonpermanent members of the Security Council, such as Morocco, Djibouti, Pakistan, and Venezuela to start the process to lift the blockade—clearly reveals that the Council has lost its role and turned into a tool to execute the objectives of America and its allies.

The Council was forced to extend the blockade, despite the fact that many member states have called for studying the lifting of the blockade or called for postponing the review conducted by the council every 60 days until today, Thursday, in order to listen to Ekeus' report on his mission in Baghdad.

America and its allies, standing behind the fabricated crises between Iraq and the United States, do not want to lift the blockade on the people of Iraq. Therefore, when they find that the talks between Iraq and the chairman of the UN Special Commission, produced fruitful results, they expeditiously urged the Security Council to extend the blockade under the pretext that the review takes place every 60 days and that it has nothing to do with Ekeus' report on the results of his mission.

Briton David Hannay, president of the Security Council, said the review is periodic and has nothing to do with Ekeus' report.

Political observers in New York believe that the general desire in the UN corridors and the majority of the Council members are for considering lifting the blockade. These states say now that the first indications of Ekeus' talks show that Iraq has fulfilled all its obligations toward the Security Council resolutions the Security Council should fulfill its obligation toward Iraq by lifting the blockade immediately in accordance with Resolution 687.

The Security Council, whose five permanent members listened to Ekeus' report on the results of his talks with Iraq—talks that ended with an agreement to resume the talks after the technical committees completed their work—should review the issue of the blockade.

The president of the Security Council refrained from responding to a question on the possibilities and dimensions of the council's next review of the blockade, that is, 60 days from now.

The extension of the blockade on Iraq came at a time when more voices are raised calling for the lifting of the blockade on the people of Iraq. Many politicians, organizations, and parties in the Arab homeland and the world are voicing solidarity with Iraq and rejecting the logic of aggression and blackmail practiced by the United States and its allies.

AL-THAWRAH Columnist Denies Journalists Arrested

JN2207143093 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Baghdad, July 22, (INA)—A press column written by columnist Hamid Sa'id published today by AL-THAWRAH newspaper exposed the new lie circulated by the enemies alleging that the Iraqi authorities arrested dozens of journalists and referred them to military courts.

The columnist unveiled that this new lie included in a bulletin issued by the Cairo-based the Arab Human Rights Organization.

The bulletin mentioned names of well-known journalists including the columnist and also mentioned unreal names of journalists.

Weizman: Christopher Visit Reflects Hope for Peace

TA2207170693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] President 'Ezer Weizman said today that the expected arrival in the Middle East of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher indicates that the United States believes it is possible to reach an arrangement in the region. According to him, all the parties in the region realize that there will only be trouble if peace is not made. The president noted that he prefers peace with the U.S. mediation over war without its involvement.

President Weizman, accompanied by Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, visited IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bases in the area of Ramallah. Later he toured the city and talked to traders and shoppers. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that some of them welcomed the president warmly and commended him on his achievements in attaining the peace agreement with Egypt.

MK's Darawshah, Dayan Leave for Meeting With 'Arafat

TA2307090193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah and Ya'el Dayan flew this morning to Cairo aboard an Air Sinai jet, on their way to meet Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis.

A spokesman for MK Darawshah's Arab Democratic Party told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that the two MK's intend to immediately leave Cairo to Tunis, where they are expected this afternoon.

Labor MK's Urge Official Channel to PLO

TA2307114093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] A group of eight Labor Knesset members [MK's] say that an official communication channel with the PLO should be opened, but only after an interim arrangement is agree upon and the principles of the self-government are signed—based on the Madrid formula.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the group does not rule out unofficial contacts with the PLO. The group is called Hofit, and includes MK's Or, Itziq, Elul, Goldschmidt, Gal, Katz, Lubelski, and Sagi.

Peres, Basyuni Comment on Talks, Ties With Egypt

TA2307062893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Excerpts] The tense situation in the north overshadowed the reception hosted yesterday by the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, marking the anniversary of the revolution [officers revolution of 1952] in his country. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was at the reception.

[Begin recording] [Raz] The annual reception at the Egyptian Embassy has become an event that brings together almost all the who's who. Almost everyone at the celebration enjoyed telling the crowd that this event furnished practical proof of the meaning of peace with an Arab country. Yesterday's festive atmosphere, however, was spoiled by the events in the north. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres maintains a very active channel of communications with the Egyptians. Peres recently visited Egypt again and met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Peres' counterpart Amr' Musa.

[Peres] Egypt is now making great efforts to add an economic dimension to the political aspects of peace. Over the coming days, I anticipate the addition of an economic facet to Israel's relations with Egypt. There are some very interesting ideas and proposals. As for Egypt's role with regard to the Palestinians, the answer is definitely yes. The number of Arab countries that the Palestinians can approach has been greatly reduced, and one of those which remain is definitely Egypt. Egypt can certainly play a role.

[Raz] Does negotiating with the Palestinians mean that Israel should conduct a dialogue with the PLO? Our host, Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, evaded the question like a seasoned diplomat.

[Basyuni, in English] Again, I think you must talk with the leader who can achieve, who can deliver, who can implement. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Rabin on Situation in Lebanon

TA2207190993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Interview with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, upon Rabin's arrival at the Egyptian Embassy reception at the Daniyel Tower Hotel in Herzliyya—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Sir, at the beginning of this week the cabinet decided that Israel will immediately react to any Hizballah attack and that another cabinet decision will be made before an irregular or extensive operation is launched. Has the time not come to end our restraint?

[Rabin] First, I would like to send my condolences to the family of the soldier who fell today defending peace for the residents and settlements of the Galilee and wish a speedy recovery to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers who were injured.

The government's policy—and it was determined when I was defense minister in the national unity government some eight years ago—is that our aim is to secure peace

for the Galilee. The security zone provides the depth that allows peace for the Galilee. Since then and until today, we have been fighting—thousands of IDF and SLA soldiers—day and night against the Palestinian terrorists in the past, and Hizballah today. The war of Lebanon did not eliminate terror. The main test is, above all, providing peace for the Galilee on the one hand, and making the painful price for attaining this goal as low as possible, on the other hand. I admit and will be frank, we have and are paying a heavy price in order to secure the Galilee. The main test, however, is providing the residents of Qiryat Shemona and the moshavim and kibbutzim along our northern border with Lebanon with the opportunity to live their lives as peacefully as possible, considering that they live on a confrontation line.

Today, Hizballah launched an attack aiming to take over two SLA posts. An IDF unit that rushed to their help 18 km north of Metulla—which is where we are protecting the Galilee—lost one of its men, but accomplished its mission. The only consideration we make in our defense policy—all that we do and all that we do not do—is which is the best way to secure peace for the Galilee residents, while keeping the price for this goal as low as possible.

[Sukenik] Are you saying, sir, that you would rather remain restrained and not be dragged into an escalation in the Security Zone?

[Rabin] I do not deal with restraint. I want to conduct a defense policy which serves the State of Israel. Terror in Lebanon exists. Neither the al-Litani operation nor the war of Lebanon put an end to terror in Lebanon. I would not like anyone to entertain the illusion that a single large and comprehensive military operation could eliminate terror from Lebanon. We paid too much for such illusions. Our policy should provide peace for the Galilee, while launching defensive or offensive operations according to this aim.

[Sukenik] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. So, now that we understand that the prime minister will probably not order a broad operation in retaliation at this stage in Lebanon, back to the studio.

Peres, Ben-Eli'ezer Offer Contrasting Views on Lebanon

TA2207191893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities in Lebanon do not indicate a change in the government's policies. According to him, IDF units will enter Lebanon only if there is a real threat to the northern settlements. On the other hand, Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that the situation in the north calls for a harsh reaction and that we have reached the end of the line. Our correspondent Nitzan Hen spoke with the two ministers:

[Begin recording] [Hen] Has Israel overdone its restraint during the past several weeks?

[Peres] Israel has not been restrained. We want to harm those attacking us and avoid harming those who do not. Our policy is well calculated. It is not a matter of restraint, it is a matter of wise policies.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I feel that we have reached the end of the road. The situation as it is today cannot go on. To the best of my understanding, today's state of affairs calls for a response on our part, and a harsh one at that.

[Hen] Does a harsh reaction mean entering the area with infantry forces?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I would like to leave this to the defense establishment, in which I have full confidence. I would only say that the reality today calls for a harsh IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reaction.

[Hen] Mr. Peres, what should Israel do after today's attack?

[Peres] Look, I do not believe I should be making any offers when fire is being exchanged. Regarding the political aspect, the United States has placed itself at the helm of the camp trying to curb the Iranian threat. Israel will do all that is necessary for the local aspect of its self-defense.

[Hen] Including a military reaction?

[Peres] If there is a military threat, we will react in kind. [end recording]

Peres on Government's Policy

TA2207145693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says that all the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] actions in Lebanon coincide with government decisions. Peres spoke with correspondents during a Labor Central Committee session at Bet Berl. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar spoke with Mr. Peres:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Mr. Peres, do the fire exchanges in the north herald any changes in government policy?

[Peres] No. It has always been Israel's policy to return fire at the source of fire.

[Gilhar] Last Sunday [18 July] the government decided to refrain from an attack for the time being.

[Peres] I think that the situation on the ground completely agrees with government decisions.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Sheli Yehimovich] In light of today's developments in the north, is their any intention to change the government's policy in Lebanon?

[Peres] The government has a very simple policy: To prevent terrorism and react when we are fired upon.

[Yehimovich] So are we reacting today?

[Peres] Indeed, yes.

[Gilhar] Mr. Peres, so far we are dealing with artillery exchanges. Does the IDF intend to go beyond this, perhaps to launch a ground attack?

[Peres] I am not going to say anything about the operational aspects.

[Gilhar] Is Israel concerned about a possible Syrian reaction in the wake of warnings emanating from official Syrian sources and journalists?

[Peres] I have not heard that Syria is running things in Lebanon. After all, they are denying this.

[Gilhar] As a senior government member, what have you heard about the situation in Lebanon?

[Peres] Again, I do not have any intention of going into the operational aspects. The government, however, has already explained its policy: On the one hand we are not adventurers, but neither are we sitting ducks—we are neither of the two. If we are fired upon, we return fire and do everything necessary to defend the area.

[Gilhar] How can calm be returned to Lebanon?

[Peres] Calm will be restored if those who started firing cease fire. [end recording]

Syrian 'Threat' No Deterrent to Operations in Lebanon

TA2307103993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur said that Syria's warnings will not prevent Israel from operating in Lebanon. Gur noted that the cabinet's decisions would be made at the appropriate time, and solely on the basis of its concern for the safety and well-being of the residents of northern Israel. The deputy defense minister nevertheless ruled out the possibility of an Israeli military action against Syria.

[Begin Gur recording] They are definitely using the Lebanese front to stab at us and to prod us into moving closer to their positions on issues related to the peace process that are important to them. This conflict with the Syrians has been going on for many years but we have proved in the past that showing a certain degree of restraint or adopting a more comprehensive view, which takes all the elements into consideration, is always desirable. We can demonstrate our military prowess in a flash if this becomes necessary, and they will then very quickly learn that we are capable of a great deal. Therefore, that is not the problem. We have nothing against the Syrians at the moment, and we have no intention of initiating anything. The Syrian threat in this regard will not affect our decisions. Our sole consideration is to reach the decision at the appropriate time and to employ the right methods. We reserve that freedom of action. [end recording]

IDF Sources Say Katyusha Firings Cross Red Line

TA2307091093 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 93 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Menahem Horowitz, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Referring to the security situation along the northern border, military sources in the north said yesterday they believe Israel will now wait to see whether the terrorists "have understood the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] aggressive message," as expressed by the massive artillery barrage aimed at villages north of the security zone. The sources said that even after the death of the IDF soldier yesterday, there is no intention to heat up the area too much.

At the same time, the fact that more than 500 artillery shells were directed at terrorist targets yesterday indicates, in their opinion, that the IDF will no longer tolerate terrorist attacks on IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers in the security zone without an appropriate Israeli reaction. According to the sources "every katyusha fired by the terrorists toward northern settlements would constitute a crossing of the red lines. If this happens, we will have no choice other than to launch a massive operation, which could result in many casualties not only to the terrorists, but also to civilians who will not escape from their homes."

The sources said that the IDF has not initiated a ground operation so far because it feared that the northern settlements would be harmed. According to them "the plans are ready, and the only question now is how far the terrorists will go." Their assessment is that the timing of the Hizballah attack yesterday is related to the upcoming visit of Secretary of State Christopher in our region.

They noted that the United States is exerting pressure on Syria to have Hizballah stop the attacks on the IDF and SLA. The sources said that Syria cannot directly influence Hizballah, because this organization is pro-Iranian, but they can stop the flow of weapons from Iran via Damascus to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Katyushas Land in Galilee

TA2307050893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Several katyusha rockets landed in open areas in the Galilee Panhandle last night. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Yesterday, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was killed in south Lebanon. His family has been notified. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports from Metulla:

A state of very tense quiet currently prevails in the security zone and south Lebanon. The barrage of katyusha rockets was fired at the Galilee Panhandle at approximately 0130 [2230 GMT] early this morning. The thud of the katyushas was clearly heard throughout the region. IDF artillery returned fire at the katyusha launching sites approximately 20 minutes after the rockets landed. The tension in the area appears to have reached its peak. Senior IDF sources yesterday said that sooner or later, the IDF would have to retaliate. Meanwhile, there is a state of high alert and readiness along both sides of the border. [passage omitted]

The defense establishment expressed concern over the fact that the Lebanese Army yesterday took part in the shelling of IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] outposts in the security zone. It is currently quiet here and the fire exchanges have also ceased in south Lebanon. However, tension runs very high and all forces are on alert. Yesterday's shelling and heavy fire exchanges disrupted the tense calm that prevailed here over the past two weeks. A senior military source told us that over the past week, Hizballah continued to deploy its force throughout south Lebanon and was pursuing its struggle against the Amal organization for the support of the Shiite population. Hizballah's aim at this stage is to heat up the security zone and drag Israel into a military operation that will exacerbate violence in the security zone. The IDF has reinforced its forces in the security zone.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 23 July also notes that "our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Yo'av Aviv report that last night terrorists in south Lebanon fired at SLA positions in the central sector. There were no casualties and no damage was caused."]

Foreign Minister Denies POST Report on Libya Ties

TA2207152393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpts] An article in today's edition of THE WASHINGTON POST claims that intermediaries on behalf of Israel's Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres have been working to improve Israel's ties with Libya, despite U.S. efforts to keep al-Qadhdhafi isolated. [passage omitted]

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that sources at the foreign minister's bureau have firmly denied the facts as reported in the American paper's article.

State Minister on Christopher Visit, Confederation

NC2307065593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Talal al-Hasan, Jordanian minister of state for foreign affairs, in Amman, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, on the Dialogue from Afar program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome to our program.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] Let us begin with the coming tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The 10th round of talks ended without progress, but efforts continue to stimulate the peace process. Do you think Christopher's tour means the United States, the chief cosponsor of the peace talks, has fresh ideas to offer?

[Al-Hasan] Christopher's tour of Jordan and other countries in the region, which will begin in the next few days, is undoubtedly a serious effort by the United States and boosts the peace process. The tour is new evidence of the U.S. desire to play an effective role, that of a full partner, in the Middle East peace process. We hope the visit will produce the positive results we hope for.

Jordan's position remains one of commitment to international legitimacy, to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and to the principles underlying the Madrid conference. We believe the United States remains committed to the principles underpinning the peace process.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, reportedly Jerusalem's status will probably be defined in the final stage of the peace talks. But the Arabs insist that Jerusalem's status be defined during the current stage, along with other practical measures involved in the peace process. How do you see Jerusalem's status and how can Jerusalem be included in the framework of the autonomy being discussed?

[Al-Hasan] Jerusalem and the holy areas concern us, as they do all Arab and Islamic countries. Jerusalem has a symbolic and emotional value for all Muslims. The Jerusalem issue will undoubtedly be raised in future consultations and in discussions with Secretary Christopher.

Jordan believes Jerusalem has a central place in the peace process. Jerusalem is crucial for us and the rest of the Islamic world.

[Abu-al-Majd] Will Jordan raise new ideas during Secretary Christopher's visit?

[Al-Hasan] Our discussion with Christopher will certainly focus on the peace process, particularly the outcome of the 10th round. We will focus on ways to stimulate the peace process and to remove all the obstacles in its path. Jordan is committed to peace and believes this opportunity for peace should not be wasted, but exploited in full. We will do what we can to urge a more effective role by the United States, which is a sponsor of the peace talks and a full partner in the process.

[Abu-al-Majd] How serious is the issue of establishing a confederation with the Palestinians and is it an alternative to an independent Palestinian state? How do you, in Jordan, view the issue?

[Al-Hasan] My dear brother, Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special. Jordan has always supported the Palestinians and their rights. As for confederation, this can only happen when both nations decide and after the Palestinians attain their right to self-determination and their national soil. [passage omitted]

King, 'Arafat Have 'Understanding' on Confederation

JN2207064493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Jul 93 pp 1, 10

["News Analysis" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Almost two years after the launching of the Middle East peace process Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are finally seriously considering a future Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as a potential integral part of a joint negotiating strategy.

Both His Majesty King Husayn and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have reached an understanding on the need to formulate a clearer and detailed vision of confederal ties and to consider placing the option on the negotiating table, according to officials from both sides.

It is clear, however, that neither side has either formulated a specific proposal nor has decided on whether it would be useful to raise the issue with the Israelis and the Americans to break the current deadlock in a way that will step up Arab demands for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

But it also clear, according to the understanding reached by the two leaders, that the two sides are talking about a confederation between two independent entities that will assert Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Therefore, the almost immediate Israeli official stance should not be viewed as a shift from the basic Israeli position that so far rejects a recognition of Palestinian self-determination and is offering Palestinian and self-rule plans that will ensure Israeli control over the land and security during the suggested interim period.

So while the Jordanians and the Palestinians view the floating of confederal ties as a door to assert Palestinian sovereignty, the Israelis most probably consider it a

revival of a form of the so-called "Jordanian option" to block the door to Palestinian statehood.

It is doubtless [as published] to say that all sides reacted positively to the idea in the hope of breaking the deadlock in the peace talks and will try to use the old-new option to steer the process in different—possibly opposite—directions.

The U.S. has interestingly enough, maintained total silence on the issue and American officials contacted in Washington refused comment.

The Palestinian delegation has already raised the subject with the U.S. coordinator on the Middle East process, Dennis Ross, during his recent visit to the region.

Mr. Ross and other mediators remained noncommittal, according to Palestinian negotiators, and appeared to be more focused on efforts to break the impasse on interim Palestinian self-rule rather that shifting the negotiations to what they view as issues belonging to the final status.

That is not to say that the U.S. has no position regarding the final status or the idea of confederation. After all, association between Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories was a key element of the American proposal launched by former President Ronald Reagan back in 1982. Since then successive American administrations have strived to define that linkage that has received different and often conflicting interpretations.

At the same time, it is important to note that the U.S. has never publicly or privately recognised Palestinian self-determination, even though officials in Washington are more than careful these days to make statements suggesting a principled American opposition to a Palestinian state.

Despite the apparent ambiguity of the American position that does not mean, according to well-placed experts in Washington, that the U.S. does not have in mind scenarios or at least ideas about the final regional setup—including the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Therefore, if the Jordanians and the Palestinians start serious discussions about the issue they will be effectively taking the initiative prior to be taken over by events and scenarios that could shape the future of both peoples.

Many analysts and political leaders have long argued that the lack of a clear joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating strategy and an understanding of a framework of a future Jordanian Palestinian relationship has been a serious shortcoming that has weakened the negotiating standing of both sides and has not contributed, to say the least, in clearing any residual misunderstandings accumulated over the decades.

It is no secret that delegates from both parts of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian team have pointed out repeatedly that coordination has fallen short of the required level that the situation calls for. The Palestinian delegation, in its understandable eagerness to assert its independence, might have inadvertently contributed to delaying a closer strategic coordination, as some Palestinian delegations admit.

But it is mainly the U.S. and Israeli refusal to deal with the PLO, which embodies Palestinian nationalism, that has been one of the major factors that heightened Palestinian sensitivity regarding the independence of the Palestinian delegation.

There could be many arguments citing the sensitivities on both sides, considering the painful past history, that contributed to the continuing "mutual uneasiness." But the fact remains that the peace process has reached a crucial point that warrants a clearer Jordanian-Palestinian strategy, especially that there cannot be any progress between Israel and Jordan without a meaningful breadkthrough regarding the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Moreover, neither the U.S. nor Israel has clearly spelled out what kind of role, if any, is evisioned for Jordan during the interim period. Taking the fact into consideration that so far no clear linkage has been established between the interim self-rule and the final status, a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement or strategy could be crucial in defining the course of the peace process.

And even if the two sides decided that placing the confederal option on the negotiating table will not serve Arab interests at this stage, that does not minimise the importance of trying to use some imaginative thinking on both sides regarding the future relationship.

According to the understanding reached in Amman, both Jordan and the PLO will separately try to formulate the future relationship and then decide to use either as a basis of a negotiating strategy or to offer it as a proposal to the U.S. and Israel, judging by interviews conducted with Jordanian and Palestinian officials in Amman and Tunis.

"The main priority remains the implementation of Resolution 242 and the attainment of Palestinian sovereignty," said Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs.

Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times stressed emphatically that what King Husayn and Mr. 'Arafat talked about was a confideration between "the Arab State of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan" in a clear attempt to allay some Palestinian concerns that the idea of confederation could infringe on Palestinian sovereignty.

It is not clear how this option, if both sides decide to raise it at the negotiating table, will be handled, especially that the Americans could argue that such a scenario could frogleap the interim period and prejudge the final outcome of the process.

Nevertheless, most anlaysts and officials agree that it is high time for the two sides to have a clear understanding of an imposed regional bilateral arrangement that could potentially trigger instability and friction—an outcome that both Jordanians and Palestinians simply cannot afford.

'Political Bribe' Seen in Gaza Withdrawal Proposal

JN2207145893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 93 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "The Bribe of Withdrawal From Gaza"]

[Text] Once again, Israel is hinting at an offer to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and is presenting its stand in a negotiating manner, which smells of a political bribe. Israel is doing so in an attempt to find a way out of the impasse it created at the Arab-Israeli negotiating table in Washington and to delude others that Rabin's Government wants to pass through the door of peace.

According to Israeli sources, Yitzhaq Rabin, who was previously asked by many of his ministers to withdraw from the Gaza Strip under the pressure of the escalating intifadah, is now offering to redeploy the occupation forces in the Gaza Strip in exchange for an agreement by the Palestinian side to stop presenting the issue of Jerusalem on the agenda at this stage.

If such a stand, which, this time, is attributed to Rabin himself, is to indicate anything, it first indicates that there is a crisis within the Israeli Government in light of the current impasse in the negotiations. Second, this stand indicates, even more clearly than before, that Rabin's Government intends to accept the principle of withdrawal from Gaza first.

There is no doubt that the growing interest in the Israeli Government withdrawing from Gaza first stems from a greater general Israeli desire to find a way out of the ordeal created by the continuation of Israel's occupation of this small piece of land crowded with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have never stopped expressing, in various ways, their rejection of this continued occupation.

Hence, since Israel realizes the situation in the Gaza Strip is increasingly untenable, it is now being presented in the form of an initiative. At first it appears to indicate a concession that can be exchanged on the issue of Jerusalem. We believe that none of the Arabs and Palestinians can accept this or become involved in a compromise with Israel that ultimately targets the future of Arab Jerusalem, which is the red line for all the Arab negotiators.

In light of all this, we hope that all the Arab parties will clarify their stand toward such a compromise. A compromise that may be officially presented within the framework of the current diplomatic efforts to end the impasse in the negotiations. This is especially true since we already realize that all Arabs agree on the need not to exclude Jerusalem from the agenda of these negotiations. Indeed, they place Jerusalem at the top of their concerns.

Birri on Christopher's Tour, Situation in South

NC2207135993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Nabih Birri, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, spoke to reporters in al-Najmah Square [the Chamber building] today about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region and the continuing Israeli shelling.

Commenting on reports that Christopher will not visit Lebanon, Birri expressed hope that the government and foreign minister would take a stand that could preserve the homeland's dignity. He stressed that Lebanon is as important as other countries. He added: If Christopher does not visit Lebanon, then Lebanon should not visit Washington [sentence as heard].

Turning to the shelling of the southern villages, Birri called for unity to back up the south and its people. He added:

[Begin recording] [Birri] We have been concerned about Israeli aggression. It has always been our opinion that the most serious thing about the Israeli aggression is not the incursions, but the shelling, which results in the inhabitants' having to leave. The aggression has already started for today. The brother journalists, naturally, are aware of what is happening today along all fronts in the south and in western al-Biqa'. Thus, the Israeli trick of pulling out 60 tanks yesterday was an attempt to deflect world public opinion. The fact is that as soon as the tanks were pulled out, the shelling started against defenseless and innocent people. Perhaps this gives the U.S. secretary of state the real picture, that Lebanon is paying the full price for these negotiations which, in my opinion, are moving backward, not forward. Lebanon must stand united once again to back up the south, its people, and its resistance, because it represents Lebanon's dignity. [end recording]

U.S. Envoy Discusses Christopher Tour With Officials

NC2307102293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] The Israeli attacks yesterday prompted officials to intensify their contacts and meetings. U.S. Ambassador Crocker yesterday called on President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri to discuss events. President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Hariri met last night, while Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and the prime minister discussed the situation on the telephone.

AL-NAHAR reported that U.S. Ambassador Crocker informed al-Hirawi and al-Hariri that Washington is dissatisfied with things in the south and that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region at the beginning of August will not include Lebanon. He justified his remarks by saying his country is interested in working for progress on the Palestinian-Israeli and the Syrian-Israeli tracks. According to AL-NAHAR, Crocker said any movement on the Lebanese-Israeli track depends on the implementation of Resolution 425.

AL-HAYAH cited Washington sources saying the United States will not allow the escalation in south Lebanon to derail the peace process.

Visit Said 'Almost' Certain

NC2207171493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will almost certainly visit Lebanon as part of his Middle East tour, thanks to high-level Syrian endeavors. According to exclusive reports to our radio, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has made a telephone call to his U.S. counterpart Christopher, in which he stressed the need for him to visit Lebanon during his tour and the importance of linking his Damascus visit to that of Beirut.

We have also learned that Minister al-Shar' pointed out to Christopher that for a better understanding of his proposals and objectives and in order to make his mission easier, he must visit Lebanon because it is directly concerned with the peace process, particularly since the military operations in the south negatively affect the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

In confirmation of these reports, our correspondent in Washington has reported that Christopher's visit to Lebanon has been scheduled in principle.

Buwayz: Israel Trying To Raise Negotiating Stakes

NC2207202293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has warned of the seriousness of the Israeli escalation because it does not serve the peace process. He said, however, that he is not surprised by this hostile method which Israel uses whenever the visit of a U.S. official to the region is imminent.

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] Whenever a U.S. delegation is planning a visit, Israel escalates the situation in the south in order to raise the negotiating stakes. It is not a new method. On the eve of any U.S. mission to the region, Israel always tries to escalate the situation in the south and carries out repeated attacks in order to exaggerate the crisis and negotiate on security issues rather than on political ones. Hence, we warn against escalating the situation in the south. We believe that the existing climate does not serve the peace process. It is not reasonable for us to be negotiating while Israel practices war methods, as it is now doing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, are you planning to lodge a protest with the UN Security Council about this?

[Buwayz] Complaints to the Security Council are usually preliminary measures. Unfortunately—we say this

openly—it appears that the United Nations is not playing the role it needs to play on the international scene.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in light of Israel's repeated attacks, some people are calling for disarming the resistance. What is your opinion?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government's position is clear on this matter. We have repeatedly said that we can never ask any Lebanese citizen to accept the Israeli fait accompli or allow it to continue indefinitely by virtue of his acceptance. Any act of opposition to occupation is every nation's and every citizen's legitimate right, particularly when the world community fails to deal with the matter.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, judging by the information available to you, do you expect Israel to commit some aggression? Is diplomatic action underway....

[Buwayz, interrupts] I said that we are afraid that, as happens every time a foreign—U.S.—delegation is planning a tour of this region, Israel will begin maneuvering by escalating the situation in the Middle East.

Al-Hariri Refuses To Pressure Resistance on Peace

NC2207172793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri today stressed that pressure on Lebanon will be useless. He said: No one should contemplate dragging the Lebanese Government into a confrontation with the resistance while the negotiations are going on.

Al-Hariri was speaking to a visiting delegation from the Lebanon Television news department headed by General Manager Fu'ad Na'im. He said that Lebanon is not a corridor for anyone and that it refuses to be a country on the sidelines. He declared that Israel must withdraw from Lebanon because it occupies its land, which is the real problem.

Al-Hariri said that the government considers its top priorities to be addressing Lebanese citizens' social security issues, noting that the government has referred the majority of vital development and service projects to bidders and that work on these projects will begin soon.

Al-Hariri said: I imagine Beirut will be full of dust next year as major work will begin in all its neighborhoods and streets.

Islamic Resistance Statement Details 22 Jul Clashes

NC2307081793 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement explaining the details of the heroic operations in the south against the occupation forces and Agents on 22 July. The statement said: With the name of martyr Husayn [Prophet Muhammad's grandson and a Shiite martyr] on their lips and as part of the operations of the holy month of Muharram, the Islamic Resistance waged a series of large-scale attacks on enemy army and agent militia locations in Sujud, Bi'r Kallab, Kafr Hunah, the 'Aramta barracks, the Zionist al-Rayhan barracks, the Lahdist al-Rayhan barracks, al-Zaffatah, and al-Shurayfah.

With God's help, the 'Aramta barracks were destroyed and everyone inside was killed or wounded. Two armored troop carriers outside the barracks were destroyed. The Kafr Hunah location was seized and everyone inside was killed or wounded. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin took control of and cleansed the Bi'r Kallab and Sujud locations. The mujahidin hoisted the banners of Abu 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Husayn. All the armored troop carriers, weapons, and equipment at the two locations were destroyed and everyone inside was killed or wounded.

Outside the Sujud location, two burnt-out armored personnel carriers were spotted. The wreck of a tank was seen inside the Bi'r Kallab position. The Islamic Resistance set up and activated ambushes against the Agent and enemy patrols that came to offer aid at the locations that were destroyed. The mujahidin targeted all the reinforcements brought into the area, causing the largest possible losses among their ranks. The Islamic Resistance honorably and bravely confronted the reinforcements, preventing them from helping at the locations that fell into mujahidin hands.

Ambushes were laid in the following places: The Bi'r Kallab-al- Rayhan road, the Sujud-al-Rayhan road, the road to the 'Aramta barracks, and the Kafr Hunah-'Ayn Majdalun road. The Islamic Resistance destroyed a major Agent Lahd Army communications center in Jazzin, cutting off communications among the various units. An explosive device was set off under a Zionist patrol on the road to the Bi'r Kallab location. The Zionist patrol was trying to enter the location and most of its men were killed or wounded.

The Islamic Resistance ambush on the Sujud-al-Rayhan road destroyed an armored personnel carrier and killed or wounded the patrol's men. The Islamic Resistance opened extensive fire using various large-caliber arms on Zionist locations at the Bi'r Kallab-'Aramta-al-Rayhan crossing. Enemy helicopters tried to help their troops, but Islamic Resistance ground defenses prevented them from achieving their objectives.

The Islamic Resistance statement continued: After every duty was carried out accurately and to the full, an Islamic Resistance engineering group entered the Sujud and Bi'r Kallab locations and destroyed all the reinforcements and constructions inside. All the members of the Islamic Resistance returned safely to base.

In its statement, the Islamic Resistance called on all the official and political forces to rally round and stand alongside the Resistance to reflect the unity and strength of their word in confronting the pressure and the attempts to infiltrate and scatter the unified stance. It also called on all the sides to practice the style of confrontation and steadfastness, especially as the conspiracy is becoming clear on

our territory and the aggressive forces are trying to usurp our right to resistance, ignoring the occupation of our land and continuous attacks on our people.

The preceding information pertains to the south. As for western al-Biqa', the Islamic Resistance affirmed that a Zionist commando group of 15 men yesterday crossed the al-Ahmadiyah position in western al-Biqa', infiltrated northward, and set up an ambush at the 910 elevation overlooking some western al-Biqa' villages. The Zionist group clashed with Islamic Resistance groups. Machine guns and artillery were used in the ensuing fierce clashes. The occupation forces shelled the Mashgharah valley, al-Bayyadah, and the environs of Markaba until 1400 yesterday. Around 40 missiles fell in the area, one on a Lebanese Army position in Qilyah. The Islamic Resistance artillery responded to the enemy fire.

IDF Soldier Killed; Gunship Attacks Confirmed

TA2207180193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1742 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by military correspondent Netan'el Semrik—live]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has just reported that an IDF soldier was killed this afternoon during a heavy exchange of fire in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. Another IDF soldier was slightly injured during the same exchanges of fire, and an SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was also slightly wounded.

At around 1100 [0900 GMT] this morning, terrorists began shooting at several IDF and SLA outposts in the north of the eastern sector of the security zone. Hizballah terror squads also attempted to storm an SLA post, but were repelled. Israel Air Force [IAF] helicopters and IDF artillery returned heavy fire at the sources of the fire and the terrorist locations. The IDF and SLA artillery fired hundreds of shells at terrorist targets north of the security zone. Later, IAF gunships took part in the combat, attacking several Hizballah targets north of the security zone in south Lebanon. All the gunships returned safely to base and the pilots reported precise hits.

This evening, Lebanese Army guns fired several shells at IDF and SLA posts inside the security zone. The northern border is currently very tense, and everyone is on high alert in anticipation of the coming night.

Al-Shar', Christopher Confer on Phone

JN2107180993 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a telephone call this morning from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. They discussed Christopher's tour of the region, which will begin on 31 July, and the U.S. Administration's eagerness, as an honest and active broker, to help the parties concerned to advance the peace process.

Christopher Tour, Israeli 'Intransigence' Viewed

JN2307104593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Israel's obstructionist approach to the peace process, Warren Christopher's upcoming tour of the region, and his promise that the United States will strive to push the peace process forward are the main talking points in today's papers.

Under the headline "Latest Instance of Israeli Intransigence", AL-THAWRAH writes in one of its opinion columns: As Warren Christopher prepares to embark on a Middle East tour to try to break the logjam in the peace process—reached thanks to Israel's recalcitrance and scorn for the peace requirements—he is greeted with a reconfirmation of a stubbornness calculated to frustrate the secretary's mission and his effort to lift the peace process from the doldrums. Israel believes its behavior will work to forestall the convening of another round of talks that might prove more fruitful than its predecessors.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the situation in south Lebanon has been brought to a head by Israel's random shelling and savage raids. Israel wants to use the aggression on Lebanon to pressure both Lebanon and U.S. Administration. The paper notes Yitzhaq Rabin's recent assertion that in a Middle East settlement, Jerusalem shall remain the united eternal capital of Israel. Such aggravating remarks, the paper argues, are a transparent attempt by Israel to keep the peace process stalled and kill the chances of any fresh proposals Christopher may carry when he comes to the region.

Israel's intransigence—as manifested in the aggression on Lebanon—and its aggravating remarks will test both America's credibility and the seriousness of the U.S. Administration's promise to exert itself in the peace process. This is even more important in light of Christopher's assertion on the eve of his regional tour that it should be possible for the United States to overcome the obstacles impeding movement.

AL-THAWRAH concluded by saying: Given Israel's insistence on thwarting the peace process—an extremely unnerving defiance of the U.S. Administration—Washington must prove it can sweep away the only barrier to peace, which experience shows is erected by Israel. This will be possible only if the U.S. Administration decides to develop its role and performance in the peace process and hold Israel responsible for the failure to make progress at the 10 rounds of the Washington bilateral talks.

In another place, AL-THAWRAH writes: When he comes to Damascus and other Arab capitals, the American secretary will find—besides a concern for peace and a commitment to keep striving to reach it—firmness and adherence to constant principles, national rights, and the Madrid Conference as the point of reference for a peace process grounded in UN resolutions and the land-for-peace formula. The success or failure of the new American effort will depend on whether it will be geared toward softening the Israeli position and getting the Israeli leaders to take the peace process seriously, accept all UN resolutions, renounce terrorism and bloody repression, lift the siege of the West Bank and Gaza, and end acts of aggression in southern Lebanon.

The paper stressed the centrality of the American position in the peace process and the need for the United States to play the full partner role with integrity and impartiality. In this kind of role, AL-THAWRAH goes on, the United States will be expected to pressure Israel to settle the affair on the side of a fair and comprehensive peace and international legitimacy and UN resolutions.

Taking up the same theme, AL-BA'TH comments: Middle East peace ranks high on Warren Christopher's agenda, promising a major U.S. effort to promote stability and security in an area fraught with risks.

The U.S. secretary knows that Israel is occupying land that rightfully belongs to others, and that, contrary to UN resolutions, it made an entire people homeless. Yet, Israeli leaders covet more Arab territory and are gearing up for more crimes against Arabs. AL-BA'TH thinks the ball is now in the U.S. court, since only the United States can get Israel to comply with the will of the international community. No Arab will surrender a single grain of Arab soil. Nor will any power be able to force on the Arabs a solution detrimental to their rights or a peace that will not bring tranquility.

While the Arabs welcome the latest American effort, AL-BA'TH adds, they hope the United States will refrain from combining the roles of antagonist and arbiter. The way Eisenhower handled Ben- Gurion is the single approach that will work with Israel and bring it around to the peace option, the paper concludes.

Commentary Views Israeli Conduct, Christopher Tour

JN2207153093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1132 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It is not the first time that Israel has taken actions in advance of efforts designed to activate and promote the peace process. Israel is heating up the atmosphere, aggravating the situation, threatening to launch an aggression, carrying out flagrant provocative acts, and embarking on stupid actions designed to show power and belligerency here and there. It seems as if the rulers of Israel are used to resorting to tension and escalation as a way to tackle the peace process and address a feverish message to the negotiating table on each occasion.

The rulers of Israel assume that this method will either prompt the Arabs to reject the peace process—so the Arabs will thus be held responsible for its failure—or at least obstruct this process and show that the problem does not lie in Israel's occupation of Arab territories but in Arab resistance and reaction. Consequently, the solution, according to Israel, lies in the Arabs ending their resistance, abandoning their territories and rights, and accepting Israeli conditions without even discussing them.

Since the peace process was begun, the Israeli objective has been not only to reject this process and its bases, but also to turn this process into an Arab capitulation through which Israel would obtain the Arab territories and rights as well as peace.

Had Israel really been serious about the peace process and its set bases, which were accepted by all parties even before this process was begun, peace would have been achieved, and this process would not have required all these rounds. Israel, however, pretended that it accepted the peace process and its bases. In fact, it began to foil the peace talks in each round. On this particular point, there has been no difference between the Shamir government, which publicly rejected the peace process, and the Rabin government, which wagered on the peace process and pretended that it cared for promoting this process. However, it was soon revealed that the Rabin government was indeed hostile to the peace process and was placing mines along its path.

Not a single round of the peace talks has been held without Israel acting in advance, carrying out aggressive and provocative acts and criminal practices in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon, so the peace process would remain under Israeli pressure and threats to launch another aggression.

As the moves and contacts continue today to end the deadlock, we find that Israel is stepping up the tension. Israel has received U.S. envoys, but acted in advance of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region by hastily hinting at a stupid aggression, siege, threats, and intimidation both in southern Lebanon and in the occupied territories. Is this the conduct of a party that really cares for peace and the peace process, as alleged by the Rabin government? Can this gloomy atmosphere help achieve any progress in the peace process, which is constantly stalled due to Israeli intransigence?

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's return to the region points to U.S. interest in proceeding with the peace process. However, the atmosphere Israel is creating before Christopher's return to the region will place new obstacles, which may be larger than the previous ones, on the path of the peace process. A party that really wants this process to move forward will not turn it into a march of tension, escalation, and provocation. Here, the full partner and honest broker will see which party is the insurmountable obstacle to the promotion of the peace process and which party has created an appropriate atmosphere to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

We, in Syria, are serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace and about our full commitment to the bases of the peace process. We are also interested in continuing this process so that it reaches its desired end—defusing the war and tension in the region. Had it been up to us, or had the other party seriously dealt with the peace process, numerous steps would have been taken on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

For its part, Syria will continue to cooperate and do whatever will help render the peace process a success, according to the set bases. This Syrian position has proven that Syria not only opened the doors for the peace process but also kept these doors open to proceed with this process, prevent its collpase, and give a wide opportunity to others, particularly the United States, to play their role in this process.

The current opportunity presented by Christopher's tour will be a test to the role of the full partner and honest broker. It is an opportunity to save the peace process and create a better atmosphere for moving from words to deeds in order to implement the bases of the peace process and achieve the desired peace in the region.

U.S. credibility on its own initiative and its responsibility for achieving a just and comprehensive peace will once again face a crucial turning point and a great test.

Qaddurah Meets Romanian Parliamentary Delegation

JN2207162893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jul (SANA)—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this afternoon received Teodor Ardeleano, vice chairman of the Romanian Senate [name and title as received], and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; Hasan Sabahi, People's Assembly member; and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus.

At the outset of the meeting, Qaddurah reviewed Syria's democratic process and its parliamentary life, as well as

the role and work of the People's Assembly, its office and committees, and the political parties represented in the Assembly.

Talks dealt with bilateral parliamentary relations and ways to promote and consolidate them, along with coordination at the ineternational parliamentary conferences. Talks also touched on several issues of mutual interest.

Afghanistan

CIS Forces' Attack on Tajik Border Region Reported

LD2207172793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The border regions of our country with the Republic of Tajikistan were today once again subjected to missiles and heavy artillery and [word indistinct] of the Russian air force.

Quoting a responsible source of the Defense Ministry, a BIA correspondent reports that (yesterday and today) the Emam Saheb District, Konduz Province and Chahab District, Yangi Qala, Dasht Qala, and Takhar Province were the target of missile attacks by the Russian forces stationed on the border of Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Fortunately, no loss of life was inflicted, but heavy loss of material occurred [words indistinct].

Also, last night military aircraft of the Russian air force carried out a number of reconnaissance flights on the [words indistinct] regions. [passage indistinct]

The present attacks by Russian forces on the Afghanistan border with Tajikistan take place at a time when the Islamic State of Afghanistan [words indistinct] and has repeatedly shown its inclination to solve problems concerning the brotherly state of Tajikistan through negotiations.

Rabbani, Arsala Meet With Pakistani Ambassador

LD2207174593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this morning received Amir Usman, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul for a meeting at the Gol Khanah Presidency Hall. Topics of interest were discussed at the meeting.

According to another report esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, foreign minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon met with the Pakistani ambassador in Kabul. They discussed topics of interest concerning both countries and developments (?outside) the country.

Refugee Affairs Minister Named to Advisory Post

LD2207181493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Under an order by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the appointment of al-Haj Rahmatollah Wahedyar as ministerial adviser [word indistinct], effective 22 June, was approved.

India

INSAT 2-B Satellite Launched Successfully 23 Jul

BK2307011493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] India's multipurpose INSAT 2-B satellite has been launched successfully. The joint Ariane rocket carrying the satellite blasted off into space at 0429 [2259 GMT] this morning from the Kourou launch pad in French Guiana.

Our Bangalore correspondent Sesha Chandrika reports that the INSAT 2-B satellite was separated after a 20-minute ride over somewhere in Southern Africa. Quoting official sources she adds that the satellite is responding well to command and the health of the satellite is perfect. The chairman of the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], Professor U.R. Rao, is at Kourou launch pad coordinating with the Indian space scientists at the mission control in Hassan. The INSAT 2-B is expected to provide channel for telecasting Doordarshan programs. This will also strengthen the rural telegraphy in the northeast of the country. Our correspondent reports that the Ariane launcher also carried a copassanger, a Spanish domestic communication satellite.

Commentary Views Satellite Features

BK2307041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Commentary by Sesha Chandrika]

[Text] Indian space scientists are all set to add another feather in their cap with the launch of the indigenously built INSAT 2-B multipurpose satellite from Kourou in French Guiana early this morning. The 1,906 kg satellite was out into geosynchronous transfer orbit successfully by the French Ariane Launch Vehicle in its 58th flight. The Ariane launch carried two satellites—a Spanish satellite and INSAT 2-B, India's multipurpose satellite. Both were of the same class.

The launch vehicle, which took off from Kourou in French Guiana at 0400 hours 28 minutes 52 seconds to be sharp, put off the Spanish satellite first. And exactly 2 minutes 55 seconds later, INSAT 2-B was put to a geosynchronous transfer orbit successfully by the Ariane. A few minutes later, Indian mission control at Master Control Facility [MCF] at Hassan took over the control of the satellite somewhere at 200 km from the earth.

The Chairman of the ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] and Space Commission, Professor U.R. Rao, led by a team of Indian scientists has been coordinating the launch operations at Kourou in French Guiana. A bigger contingent of Indian space scientists led by the project director of INSAT 2-B, Dr. S.Rangarajan, are managing the mission control at the Master Control Facility at Hassan. Prof. U.R. Rao speaking from the

launching pad at Kourou said that the weather was extremely cordial. He recalled that this totally indigenously built satellite was a team work of ISRO Satellite Center, Space Application Center, the Liquid Propulsion Center, Vikram Sarabhai Space Center, MCF at Hassan and in all over 19,000 scientists [as heard] and technologists.

INSAT 2-B is another milestone which will add tremendously to our capacity in communications, particularly the TV regional channels, educational programs, and meteorology. The firing of rocket engine inside the satellite so as to bring it gradually to the geostationary orbit 336,000 km above the earth is scheduled to start by tomorrow evening. Then the process of deploying the antenna, the solar cell, the beam, and the solar panels will begin. All these operations, according to Prof. Rao, will take approximately 10 to 12 days.

Space Official: Country To Develop Own Cryogenic Engine

BK2307032693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] The chairman of ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization], Professor U.R. Rao, has said that India will develop its own cryogenic engine technology required for satellite launching operations. In an exclusive telephonic interview to our Bangalore correspondent from Kourou, Prof. Rao said there is no other way, but to develop our own cryogenic engine. He said efforts are being made by Indian scientists to develop a complete cryogenic engine within next two or three years.

Statewide Strike Begins in West Bengal 23 Jul

BK2307033693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] In West Bengal, the 24-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the pradesh [state] Congress-I began at 0600 this morning. Our Calcutta correspondent reports that train services in Eastern and Southeastern Railway have been disrupted following blockade by the supporters of the bundh at various stations. Long distance trains have been held up at different stations. State transport buses and trams are plying in the capital. However, very few private buses are on the roads. The bundh is in protest against Wednesday's [21 July] police firing on Youth Congress-I workers in Calcutta.

NFLF To Support BJP's No-Confidence Motion

BK2307092693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] The National Front-Left Front [NFLF] combine today decided to support the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-sponsored no-confidence motion if that is admitted in the ensuing session of parliament. This was decided at a meeting of NFLF leaders in New Delhi. The combine will raise four issues: economic policy, failure to tackle communalism, delay in the implementation of Mandal Commission's recommendation, and corruption at high places through the no-confidence motion.

Samajwadi Party, BSP Not To Back Motion

BK2307092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] The Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party, BSP, have decided to abstain from voting on the no-confidence motion against the Narasimha Rao government in the monsoon session of parliament beginning on Monday [26 July]. This was announced by the Samajwadi Party leader and former Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, in New Delhi today. Talking to newsmen, he said the decision has been taken after discussions with the BSP leader, Mr. Kansi Ram. The two parties have six members in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav made it clear that his party and the BSP will not support any move which directly or indirectly benefits the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party].

U.S. Criticized for Decision on Pakistan

BK2207122293 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Jul 93 p 8

[Editorial: "American Charade"]

[Text] Pakistan's desperate bid to avoid being placed by the U.S. on the list of countries supporting international terrorism has finally succeeded. Even before the U.S. State Department had cited evidence of Pakistani support for terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab last April, Washington had given sufficient warning to Islamabad about its disquiet on this score. It was supposed to have placed Pakistan on an informal watch list of states indulging in terrorism against other countries. This watch, going by the latest U.S. official statement on the subject, has paid dividends and so Washington has decided not to dub Pakistan a terrorist state. But what was the precise proof that Pakistan gave to the Clinton administration that it has in fact changed and has stopped violating the international law by fomenting terrorism in Kashmir? The U.S. Secretary of State has avoided a specific answer to this crucial question. All that Warren Christopher says is that Pakistan has taken a number of steps that "appear to have responded to our concerns about reports of official support for Kashmir and other militants who commit terrorist acts against India."

The most significant words in this statement are "appear" and "official support". They suggest two things. First, Christopher has decided to give Pakistan the benefit of the doubt. Secondly, he has held that an obvious Pakistani promise not to extend "official support" to terrorism in Kashmir is sufficient to meet the reguirements of the U.S. anti-terrorist law. But what were the concrete steps taken to back up this promise? Apart from a reshuffle of personnel in the Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] which has masterminded and executed

the policy of training large number of Kashmiris in guerilla warfare and infiltrating them and, of course, smuggling vast quantities of sophisticated arms into the Kashmir valley for this purpose, the Americans have said nothing about this.

That Washington has chosen not to demand convincing proof of scrupulous Pakistani avoidance of continued help to terrorists in Kashmir and to dismiss as of no consequence the Indian capture of large quantities of arms from infiltrators is also clear from the State Department's, spokesman, Mike McCurry's candid remark. While explaining the decision not to place Pakistan on the list of terrorist states, he disclosed that Christopher had only followed the letter of the law. Besides, the Secretary of State cannot be unaware that the powerful ISI which has, for all practical purposes, dictated Pakistan's foreign and defence policies, can extensively indulge and has indulged in the export of terrorism unofficially—as it did in respect of the blasts which shook Bombay in March. But he has disregarded all this. Since the U.S. decision is likely to embolden the ISI to continue doing what it has been doing, its much-vaunted drive against terrorism is a charade.

Pakistani Official Arrested for Taking Documents

BK2307091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] A Pakistan High Commission official, Mohammad Reaz, was arrested in New Delhi today while he was receiving some sensitive documents from his contact person. He was picked up near Patel Marg at 10.15 this morning, and the Pakistan High Commission was asked around 11.00 a.m. to collect him from the police station. Informed sources say that the arrested official was a key member of a Pakistani spy ring operating in the country.

Kazakh Minister Holds Talks With Dinesh Singh

BK2207163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The visiting deputy prime minister of Kazakhstan, Mr. G.A. Abilisiitov, met the minister for external affairs, Mr. Dinesh Singh, in New Delhi today and held wide-ranging discussions on promoting exchanges in the fields of technical education, civil aviation, and science and technology. Mr. Abilisiitov reiterated his country's interest in cooperation with India in space and in particular Indian involvement in the cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

ICO Intervention in Internal Affairs Criticized

BK2207124293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Commentary by O.P. Pandit]

[Text] Pakistan has developed an anti-India mania. It now seems to be surviving an anti-India card. What Pakistan needs is a platform—regional, national, or international to give hysterical expression, professing love for Kashmiri Muslims. This fact is known to friendly ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] countries, too. But still they are sometimes influenced by Pak propaganda. In April, they passed a resolution castigating India for violations of human rights in Kashmir. Again, a few days back while discussing the so-called plight of Muslims in former Yugoslavia, they expressed their professed concern for Indian Muslims, especially those living in Kashmir.

India has rejected the ICO accusations and resolutions. The Indian ambassadors have also expressed the Indian Government's concern. Individual ICO countries have assured India that they have no choice because of pressure from the Islamic fundamentalists at home and abroad. Indians also know ICO has all bark but no bite, being in effect, a toothless organization.

It came into existence in 1970 after the Islamic summit in Rabat. In 1969, it refused at the instigation of Pakistan to admit India to the conference. Apart from pinching India from time to time, it has proved impotent in stopping the Iran-Iraq war, the tragic annexation of Kuwait, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, the destruction of Iraq, and the massacre of Bosnian Muslims, to quote a few examples. An ill-gotten assembly of 45 Muslim countries, it has done little to fulfil its two aims—namely, promoting Islamic solidarity and economic progress of Muslims. It has proved itself nothing more than a branch of Pakistani intelligence, located in Saudi Arabia. Its 45 members are spread over Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Some of them are known for determined opposition to Islamic fundamentalism. Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria have tried to suppress Islamic fundamentalism rather ruthlessly. Turkey is more European than Islamic. In fact, in the final analysis, the ICO opposition to India is extended only to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. Pakistan, for obvious reasons, and the other two for their ideological commitment to fundamentalism for their political legitimacy and expansionism.

It is wished that the ICO countries would draw wisdom. They would suffer if fundamentalism gains ground in India through Kashmir or otherwise. It is the secular character of India that is keeping 130 million Muslims in India safe and prosperous as any other community. Fundamentalists in Pakistan have left no ground unturned to harm the Indian Muslims who refused to migrate to Pakistan in 1947, knowing well that the very birth of Pakistan is based on the two-nation theory. Countries like Egypt, Algeria are paying the price of fundamentalism, and Indonesia and Malaysia have also tasted how communal tensions arising out of practise of Islamic ideas has hampered their economic progress. The example of Nigeria, which was torn asunder by a civil war in the sixties on religious grounds, should be still fresh in the memory of ICO countries.

Because of tribal feuds, democracy in Pakistan has not been able to acquire roots. The human rights situation and nuclear ambitions of Pakistan, and Iran to expand fundamentalism, is well-known to the Clinton administration and Russia, who would not like Islamic fundamentalism to sway Central Asia. Oppression of Christian and Hindu minority in Sudan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh has also not faded out of man's memory. It is time the ICO realize that interfering in India's internal affairs would be counter-productive. India would deal sternly with extremists who want Kashmir valley to secede from the Indian union at the cost of 130 million Muslims in India. When China can settle a considerable number of her Han population in Tibet, and the Israelis rehabilitate her Kibbutz comprising of Jews in the Arab territory, why cannot Hindus migrate to the Kashmir valley to meet the proxy-war threats of Pakistan?

Iran

Envoy Reports Iraqi Airspace Violations to UN

LD2207130193 Tehran IRNA in English 1231 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, July 22, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali reported several cases of violation of Iranian airspace by Iraqi war-planes.

The Iraqi war-planes, said the letter, violated the cease-fire regulations and entered the Islamic Republic's airspace in western areas on June 23-24.

"On 23 June 1993, at 2355, six Iraqi war-planes violated the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Three of those planes returned to Iraq after flying over Mahabad city and the other three flew over Mahabad, Sardasht, Bookan and Baneh for 18 minutes before returning to Iraq," the letter noted.

It added that also on June 24, "two Iraqi war-planes violated the airspace of Islamic Republic of Iran and, after flying over the southern section of western Azerbaijan Province, returned to Iraq."

President Receives Law Enforcement Officials

LD2207135893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] The Law Enforcement Forces' [LEF] commanders and officials from all over the country, as well as officials from the political-ideological unit in the Force, met the president today.

You heard at the beginning of the news bulletin that the president paid tribute to the performance of the LEF at the meeting and urged its personnel to attract greater trust from the public. My colleague will provide more details about that meeting:

[Unidentified correspondent] In that meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that guidance and persuasion should become the focus of programs executed by the LEF. He said: The objective is to attract the trust of the people and to avoid punishment and coercion as much as possible. Lending support to those who adhere to observing the society's norms constitutes the best step toward attracting the people's trust in the LEF.

The president said that the government's second development plan has placed emphasis on plans aimed at strengthening morale, creating greater cohesion, and equipping the LEF with modern and up-to-date tools.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the point that the enemies of the Islamic revolution, after seeing that all their conspiracies for weakening the revolution have suffered defeat, now seek to disturb the country's security. He said: The enemies are deeply upset that Islamic Iran is engaged in reconstruction amid an atmosphere of complete calm and security. They are trying to disturb this security.

The president said that training committed and pious LEF personnel is one of the issues to which LEF officials must pay serious attention. He also said that safekeeping of classified information is an essential task and he stressed the important role of the politico-ideological and the counterintelligence units within the LEF.

The president also expressed the hope that the LEF may be able to attain its real strength by fulfilling its lawful role. [passage omitted]

Proposal To Train Afghan Diplomats Welcomed

LD2207173693 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA—The visiting Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Jalil Shams here Thursday in a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Education and Research Abbas Maleki called on Iran to train Afghan diplomats.

The Afghan official referring to cultural ties between the two countries and the problems that Afghanistan is presently facing said that Tehran can help Kabul by sending books and professors.

Maleki said that from political and geographical point of view Iran gives special priority to Afghanistan and welcomed the proposal. He also expressed hope that security will be established in Afghanistan and added that Tehran is ready to train Afghan diplomats. Presently the Islamic Republic of Iran is modernizing the public libraries of Herat and Kabul.

Pakistan

Qureshi To Undergo Medical Checkup in Washington

BK2307032293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Moin Qureshi will leave Islamabad for Washington next Sunday [25 July] on a five-day private visit. During his stay in Washington, Moin Qureshi will get a medical checkup, which was arranged before he assumed the prime minister's office. He will return home on 30 July.

PML Demands Same-Day Local, National Elections

BK2207154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Junejo Group has demanded holding the elections for national and provincial assemblies on the same day. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, the party's Punjab President Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo said that the party wants changes in election laws and a complete ban on the use of (?banners) and airplanes during election campaigning. He also demanded that people's representatives declare their assets. He said that the PML-Junejo Group is holding negotiations with other parties for an electoral alliance.

12 Indian Troops Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK2207152193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 12 Indian troops have been killed in clashes with mojahedin in various parts of the held valley. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE], six occupation troops were killed when mojahedin opened fire on them during house-to-house searches in Bandipura area. Five Kashmiri Muslims were also martyred in indiscriminate firing by the troops. Over 40 people have been martyred in Bandipura during the last one week. Another six persons were killed in a land mine explosion in Patan area. Mojahedin also attacked the Indian military positions in Baramula and Sopor and killed several troops. Meanwhile, a severe crackdown continues in several localities of Srinagar where people are being subjected to torture and harassment. Several innocent people were rounded up during the operation.

Meanwhile, a German human rights organization has called upon the Indian Government to stop genocide of Muslims in occupied Kashmir and initiate steps to settle the Kashmir issue in accordance with the wishes of the people. In a letter addressed to the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, the Society for the Threatened People expressed grave concern over human rights situation in the Indian-held Kashmir. It said the atrocities by way of murder, rape, arson, loot, arrest and other forms of humiliation stand documented despite best efforts by the Indian administration to cover up these human rights violations. The society warned the Indian prime minister that the world public opinion cannot be (?cased) by extrajudicial killings of Kashmiris, who try to inform the world about heinous crimes of the Indian troops.